Some of the best saint stories are not about wonder-workers, but rather the everyday saints—friends who understand the challenges of marriage and motherhood and the banalities of day-to-day life. Bestselling author Elizabeth Ficocelli discovered three such friends in Therese of Lisieux, Faustina of the Divine Mercy, and Bernadette of Lourdes. The witness of their lives moved Ficocelli to cultivate the virtues of faith, hope, and love as she journeyed from a successful career as a marketing executive to what she found was a more authentic, even counter-cultural Catholic womanhood. Ficocelli offers women the wisdom of these saints for their own spiritual journeys.

In Casting Nets you'll learn to "catch" people for the Lord using THE SEVEN PILLARS OF EFFECTIVE EVANGELIZATION, Stewart and Brandt's tested and proven principles that allow for effective evangelization, all modeled in the life of Jesus; Prayerful, Invitational, Hospitable, Inspirational, Sacramental, Formational, and Missionful.

Do you ever feel like raising kids in the faith is a losing battle? Or maybe your spouse wishes you weren't quite so religious. Concerns surrounding Christianity and faith can become touchy topics for today's families. With equal doses of sound spiritual wisdom and good psychological perspective, Dr. Ray addresses the most common issues, such as:

- Kids asking, “Why do we have to go to church when Dad doesn’t?”
- A spouse saying, “You’re no fun anymore since you found God.”
- Frustrated parents wondering, “How can we get our toddler to behave during Mass?”

Dr. Ray shows you the guilt-free way to live your faith and share it peacefully with those you love.

Scripture is your guide to what matters most in life. If you're not familiar with it, Patrick Madrid's choice of 150 key verses can ease you in. If you regularly read and pray with Scripture, these verses will provide you rich food for thought. No matter what your situation, the Bible will help you evaluate the choices and make the decisions that confront you every day. Either explicitly or implicitly, Scripture addresses all of life's problems, worries, dangers, questions and uncertainties.

O’Neel tells the stories of martyrs associated with North America. Some are from other countries and died in their attempts to spread the faith on this continent. Some were born on this continent but died doing missionary work in other lands. Some were individual martyrs, and some were part of a heroic group. Some were “white martyrs” who, although they did not shed their blood for the faith, suffered much for the spread of their faith. These martyrs changed the world by their courage and commitment, and their stories have the power to inspire us today to live our Catholic faith bravely and boldly.
Blessings of the Rosary: Meditations on the Mysteries by Dennis Billy

Deepen your knowledge of the rosary! This helpful book offers prayerful reflections on each of the twenty mysteries of the rosary along with thoughtful questions that will inspire a richer awareness of God's presence. Newcomers to the rosary, as well as people long familiar with this venerable prayer form, will benefit from Father Billy's meditations. The reflections in Blessings of the Rosary will encourage readers to make the rosary an integral part of their daily devotions.

Whispers of God's Love: Touching the Lives of Loved Ones After Death by Mitch Finley

Surveys indicate that as many as 50 percent of the population have felt the presence of a loved one who has died. Catholics, especially, have a strong belief in the communion of saints, and this collection of gentle stories will be a comforting reminder that at death, life is not ended but merely changed.

Word by Word: Slowing Down with the Hail Mary by Sarah Reinhard

Popular Catholic author Sarah Reinhard compiled an accessible, profound, and unique meditation on each word of the Hail Mary, one of the most important prayer traditions in Catholic life. Each of the forty reflections encourages readers to "slow down" with the Hail Mary and experience previously unseen dimension in the popular devotion, making it come to life in a new way.

Working for a Better World by Dr. Carolyn Woo

This is an engrossing account not only of Dr. Woo's own life which started as a refugee from Communist China, but of the ongoing critical work of Catholic Relief Services in meeting the needs of the poor, the traumatized, and the needy throughout the world. From typhoon-flattened cities in the Philippines to earthquake-devastated Haiti, CRS is there before the TV cameras arrive and there after they leave. And there in over 100 countries-helping subsistence farmers and health-care workers, orphans and refugees-in those neglected places where the cameras never come.

Unleashed: How to Receive Everything the Holy Spirit Wants to Give You by Sonja Corbitt

Sonja Corbitt was an evangelical Baptist before she converted to Catholicism. In Unleashed, she shares her passion for the scriptures by weaving the Word of God with her own experiences to show readers how the Holy Spirit flows through their lives in relationships, prayer, and even in times of suffering. Sonja Corbitt's passionate faith and natural storytelling ability combine to create a refreshing message of how God, in his continual pursuit of us, speaks to us through the positive and painful circumstances of life, relationships, and his Word. In Unleashed, Corbitt testifies that prayerful and regular study of the scriptures is the key to hear the voice of God, to see the Holy Spirit at work even in times of suffering, and to receive all the graces God wants to give.
**This Tremendous Lover by M. Eugene Boylan**

In "This Tremendous Lover," a Trappist monk speaks clearly and perceptively to the world of priests, religious, or laity still in the world. Boylan explains God’s plan for our happiness, and how we are each called to participate in this divine plan as members of the Mystical Body of Christ. "This Tremendous Lover" has been called a modern version of "Introduction to the Devout Life," the timeless sixteenth-century classic by St. Francis de Sales, and it is one of one hundred works on the Catholic Lifetime Reading Plan.

**Thomas Merton: A Life in Letters: The Essential Collection by Thomas Merton**

This expert distillation of Thomas Merton's letters offers a glimpse into the mind and heart of this fascinating monk, mystic, poet, and prophet as he writes to a variety of friends and acquaintances, including Pope John XXIII, Jackie Kennedy, Dorothy Day, and Thich Nhat Hanh. A Trappist monk, peace and civil rights activist, and widely-praised literary figure, Merton was renowned for his pioneering work in contemplative spirituality, his quest to understand Eastern thought and integrate it with Western spirituality, and his firm belief in Christian activism.

**Seeking Surrender: How My Friendship with a Trappist Monk Taught Me to Trust and Embrace Life by Colette Lafia**

An unlikely friendship between Colette Lafia and a silent monk, Brother Rene, at the Abbey of Gethsemani comes to life through seven years of shared letters. Lafia's palpable openness and warm storytelling lead readers through the same compassionate process that led the author to accept herself, find peace with life, and strive for an ever-deepening relationship with God. Within the deep friendship cultivated through letters, is Lafia's struggle with infertility, insomnia, the loss of her sister, the declining health and eventual death of her father, and her role as caregiver. Brother Rene's compassion and guidance throughout these trials—and Lafia's responses—provide a template for helping readers to surrender to God in their own struggles.

**The Seven Deadly Sins: A Visitor's Guide by Lawrence Cunningham**

Cunningham guides readers on a tour of and personal inquiry into the seven deadly sins—their roots in the mystic experiences of the desert fathers, their modern manifestations, and how to supplant these invasive, destructive habits with virtue. Sloth, envy, gluttony, greed, anger, lust, and pride: when and how were they first identified? Who grouped them together? Can we truly resist their pull? Renowned theologian Lawrence Cunningham explores these questions and others.

**Blessing Life's Losses: Letting Go and Moving On by Joan Guntzelman**

Provides faith-based reflections using prayers, stories, exercises of the imagination, and commentary. Topics include losses connected to aging, relationships, jobs or roles; death of loved ones, dreams, hopes, and expectations.
Elizabeth Ann Seton by Anne Merwin

A staunch Protestant, she held and fully enjoyed a position among the elite of society until her life took a different path - one that would bring her to God and continue to affect lives over two hundred years after her death. Let author Anne Merwin, former president of the Mother Seton House in Baltimore, guide you through the life of this young socialite who becomes the pioneer of the Catholic school system in the United States and the foundress of the Sisters of Charity.

American and Catholic: Stories of the People Who Built the Church by C. Walker Gollar

The Catholic Church in America was built in the missions of the West, the slums of New York, and the heartland of the Midwest by ordinary believers forging extraordinary lives. C. Walker Gollar tells their stories, which become the story of the Church. American and Catholic tackles difficult topics such as slavery, the treatment of Native Americans, martyrdom, the role of women, and immigration in a balanced and nuanced way. From the time of the first European explorers to the twenty-first century, it offers glimpses into the long, sometimes painful, and always changing life of the Church in the United States.

Finding True Happiness: Satisfying Our Restless Hearts by Robert Spitzer

After an exhaustive investigation of philosophical, psychological, and theological systems of happiness, Fr. Spitzer developed the Four Levels of Happiness, which he based on the classical thinkers Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, and Aquinas; the contemporary philosophers Marcel, Scheler, Buber, Ricoeur, and Jaspers; and the modern psychologists Maslow, Frankl, Erikson, Seligman, Kohlberg, and Gilligan. Finding True Happiness is both a philosophical itinerary and a practical guidebook for life's most important journey from the mundane and the meaningless to transcendent fulfillment.

The Mystical Body of Christ by Fulton J. Sheen

The Mystical Body of Christ captures the theological precision and communicative genius of Fulton J. Sheen (1895-1979), whose radio and television broadcasts, including Life Is Worth Living, have reached millions of homes since the 1950s. This full-length and fully developed work on the Church as an extension of the Incarnation reveals Sheen's accessible and theologically astute teaching style in the early years of his ministry. First published in 1935, the book's themes of the Eucharist as a source of unity for the Mystical Body of Christ -- the Church -- and the link between the liturgy and works of social justice were echoed in the Second Vatican Council several decades later.

From Fear to Faith: A Worrier's Guide to Discovering Peace by Gary Zimak

The Bible says “be not afraid” but it's next to impossible to do that when faced with the big - and small - “what-if’s” of life. Chronic worrier Gary Zimak is no stranger to fear and anxiety, and in From Fear to Faith he shares his process for overcoming common and wearying fears and embracing the calm strength of faith through his 5-P method. As Gary says, by doing what we can and letting God take it from there, we can start feeling less anxious and more at more at peace today! Through biblical examples, prayers, and personal stories, Gary Zimak will help you start the journey from fear to faith as soon as you’re ready. From what to pack to who needs to join you on the ride, Gary ensures you’re prepared for whatever anxiety-inducing situations meet you on your journey.
God's Doorkeepers: Padre Pio, Solanus Casey and André Bessette by Joel Schorn

I look on my whole life as giving, and I want to give and give until there is nothing left to give—Solanus Casey, from the Introduction. Padre Pio and André Bessette would have readily agreed with Solanus Casey even though, on the surface, none of the three had much to give. All grew up in humble circumstances, each suffered poor health, and none achieved academic distinction or prominent positions in their religious orders. They were, to all appearances, the sort of people others overlook. Yet in their lifetimes, untold numbers found physical and interior healing through their ministries, and since their deaths their fame has grown enormously. Their secret was the secret of every successful Christian life: In complete humility, they abandoned themselves to the will of God. Bessette and Casey literally answered the door at their monasteries, and Pio was something of a spiritual doorkeeper in the confessional. *God’s Doorkeepers* reveals how these miracle-workers, in spite of their lowly circumstances, inspired and continue to inspire those who seek a healing encounter with God.

Heaven in Our Hands: Living the Beatitudes: Receiving the Blessings You Long For by Fr. Benedict J. Groeschel

Father Benedict Groeschel believes that we've lost touch with how revolutionary the Beatitudes really are! The plain but astounding truth is that the Beatitudes reveal to us the very heart of God. When you begin to comprehend the beauty of living the Beatitudes that Jesus gave us, you'll discover that he's placed heaven in our hands.

How the Catholic Church Built Western Civilization by Thomas E. Woods

Ask someone today where Western Civilization originated, and he or she might say Greece or Rome. But what is the ultimate source of Western Civilization? Thomas E. Woods, Jr. provides the long neglected answer: The Catholic Church. He goes far beyond the familiar tale of monks copying manuscripts and preserving the wisdom of classical antiquity. Gifts such as modern science, free-market economics, art, music, and the idea of human rights come from the Catholic Church. You’ll learn: Why modern science was born in the Catholic Church; Catholic priests developed the idea of free-market economics five hundred years before Adam Smith; The Catholic Church invented the university; What you know about the Galileo affair is wrong; Western law grew out of Church canon law; the Church humanized the West by insisting on the sacredness of all human life.

Get Out of the Boat: Discover the Meaning of Your Life by Thomas Winninger

“This lofty yet down-to-earth guide is the perfect combination of spirituality, optimism, prayer, planning, and self-discovery. Award-winning speaker Thomas J. Winninger masterfully blends these elements to create a road map to the true purpose of our lives.”

Nuts & Bolts of Daily Spirituality: Practical Steps to Draw Closer to God by David Knight

Christian life is a mystery, says Father Knight. The saints make it look easy, but for most of us, putting divine love into practice can take a minor miracle. Until this book came along. Here are practical tips and simple habits you can start doing right now to help you: enrich your prayer life; get more out of the Mass; deepen your relationships; discover what’s mystical in your life; get to know God as deeply and passionately as God wants to know you. Direct and refreshingly simple, these workable solutions might have you wondering if it is really this easy to grow into that fullness of life that is the perfection of love. Father Knight assures us that it is. The perfect book for those looking to grow their faith-life, one step at
The Gospel of John, the Gospel of Relationship by Jean Vanier

Love of God and love of others are the two great commandments: Jean Vanier shows that these are the same thing. We express our love for God through compassionate care for one another and we encounter the love of God most tangibly through those closest to us. In his chapter-by-chapter exploration of the Gospel of John, Vanier explains how Jesus taught this lesson at every step of his ministry. He includes stories from his work with L'Arche that express in earthly terms the great privilege we have of developing our relationships with one another and with God.

Immigration and the Next America: Renewing the Soul of Our Nation by Archbishop Jose H. Gomez

Gomez has written a personal, passionate and practical contribution to the national debate about immigration pointing the way toward a recovery of America's highest ideals. Immigration is a human rights test of our generation. It's also a defining historical moment for America. The meaning of this hour is that we need to renew our country in the image of her founding promises of universal rights rooted in God. Archbishop Gomez is the Archbishop of Los Angeles, the nation's largest Catholic community and the Chairman of the United States Catholic Bishops Committee on Migration and a papal appointee to the Pontifical Commission for Latin America. Archbishop Gomez is a native of Monterrey, Mexico and a naturalized American citizen.

Jesus of Israel: Finding Christ in the Old Testament by Fr. Richard Veras

Not only was Jesus a Jew, his coming was foreshadowed in stories from Genesis to the prophets. Father Richard Veras invites us to enter a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ through the doors of familiar and not-so-familiar incidents in the Old Testament. Ever wonder, for example, why God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac? Even more, why Abraham was willing to do it? Puzzled as to why there are two creation accounts in Genesis? What's the problem with being a Samaritan? And what does any of this have to do with Jesus and our life in him? The author explores these and other issues with one goal in mind: to "aid the reader to come to a deeper certainty about Jesus Christ."

Living the Sacraments: Grace into Action by Bert Ghezzi

The sacraments lie dormant for many because we don't understand them and don't know how to tap into their supernatural energy. Living the Sacraments weaves together Scripture, the writings of the saints, and personal stories to help us understand these seven gifts of the Church and experience their practical and spiritual rewards.

Living the Ten Commandments as a Catholic Today by Fr. Mathew Kessler

Living the Ten Commandments as a Catholic Today is written to "open up" the commandments and make them understandable and relevant for our lives today. Their messages are timeless--tell the truth, respect your parents, don't commit adultery--but it's hard sometimes to put their meaning into the context of today's hectic, fast-paced world. This book brings the holy messages alive and helps us understand that the word of God lives on through our actions and reactions to the world around us. In this book, the ten commandments are viewed and explained in contemporary language through modern eyes, but the message is the same--God loves us and wants us to be happy.
The Noonday Devil: Acedia, the Unnamed Evil of Our Times by Dom Jean-Charles Nault

The noonday devil is the demon of acedia, the vice also known as sloth. The word “sloth”, however, can be misleading, for acedia is not laziness; in fact it can manifest as busyness or activism. Rather, acedia is a gloomy combination of weariness, sadness, and a lack of purposefulness. It robs a person of his capacity for joy and leaves him feeling empty, or void of meaning. Nault says that acedia is the most oppressive of demons. Although its name harkens back to antiquity and the Middle Ages, acedia is experienced by countless modern people who describe their condition as depression, melancholy, burn-out, or even mid-life crisis. He begins his study of acedia by tracing the wisdom of the Church on the subject from the Desert Fathers to Saint Thomas Aquinas. He shows how acedia afflicts persons in all states of life—priests, religious, and married or single laymen. He details not only the symptoms and effects of acedia, but also remedies for it.

The Soul of a Pilgrim: Eight Practices for the Journey Within by Christine V. Paintner

Paintner identifies eight stages of the pilgrim’s way and shows how to follow these steps to make an intentional, transformative journey to the reader's inner "wild edges." Each phase of the exploration requires a distinct practice such as packing lightly, being uncomfortable, or embracing the unknown. Paintner shows how to cultivate attentiveness to the divine through deep listening, patience, and opening oneself to the gifts that arise in the midst of discomfort. Each of the eight chapters offers reflections on the themes, a scripture story, an invitation to the practice of lectio divina, and a creative exploration through photography and writing.


You’ve joined the Church or rediscovered your faith: Now what? If you’re at a loss about how to participate fully in the Church, connect with your local parish, and understand all those “quirky” Catholic things they didn’t cover in your catechism classes, this book can help. It offers practical advice and clears up misconceptions about what it means to be Catholic. Patrick Madrid is the perfect coach—able to offer encouragement when things seem odd or difficult, explain why Catholics say and do (and don’t say or do) certain things, and help new converts fully live their Catholic faith. Here is a practical guide for all those who feel out of their element now that they are in the Catholic Church.

Gifts of the Visitation: Nine Spiritual Encounters with Mary and Elizabeth by Denise Bossert

The biblical encounter between the Virgin Mary and her cousin Elizabeth, before the births of Jesus and John the Baptist, is at the heart of Gifts of the Visitation by popular speaker and syndicated columnist Denise Bossert. She uses their story to highlight nine gifts experienced by both women as they awaited the arrival of their sons and to encourage readers to develop these gifts themselves. Bossert showcases the seasons of birth, grief, newness, and challenge experienced in the hearts of Mary and Elizabeth at the Visitation and invites readers to see these times in their own lives as opportunities to let God make all things new. Within each of those seasons, nine gifts emerge—spontaneity, courage, joy, readiness, humility, adventure, hospitality, wonder and awe, and thanksgiving—equipping readers to present Christ to the world as Mary and Elizabeth did.

What Are We Doing on Earth for Christ’s Sake? By Richard Leonard SJ

Bestselling author Richard Leonard's third book in a series of questions, What Are We Doing On Earth for Christ's Sake?, invites Christians to revisit their faith in the midst of the contemporary world and its challenges. Rather than ignoring the world around us or creating one that is removed from reality, the book encourages the need for honest dialogue, stresses the importance of religious experience, but most importantly, urges the practice of genuine actions for Christ's sake.
The Practice of Healing Prayer: A How-To Guide for Catholics Paperback by Francis Macnutt

Most Catholics did not grow up learning how to pray with others for healing or expecting that their prayers could be powerful and transformative. Francis MacNutt, an early leader in the Catholic charismatic renewal and head of Christian Healing Ministries, encourages Catholics to do both. This easy-to-read and informative book includes a step-by-step guide for how to pray with others; explains the various types of healings that we can expect—physical, emotional, spiritual; discusses the healing effects of the sacraments; and features stories of people who have been healed through prayer.

Renewed: Ten Ways to Rediscover the Saints, Embrace Your Gifts, and Revive Your Catholic Faith by Robert P. Reed

In his debut book, Fr. Robert Reed--popular on-air host and president of the CatholicTV Network--issues a creative call to all Catholics to renew the Church by rediscovering the gifts of their faith. Reed profiles ten surprising pairs of saints who offer lessons in reviving faith, starting at the personal level and radiating outward to the wider Church. Fr. Robert Reed, of the Archdiocese of Boston, believes that the best remedy for discouraged Catholics is a reclaimed sense of the tradition's riches as embodied in the lives of the saints. In this passionate call to renewal, he profiles twenty saints who, like Catholics today, lived in times of crises when the way forward was unclear.

The Fathers Know Best - Your Essential Guide to the Teachings of the Early Church by Jimmy Akin

Amazing features in this fact-packed book include: - More than 900 quotations from the writings of the early Church Fathers, as well as from rare and important documents dating back to the dawn of Christian history. - Mini-biographies of nearly 100 Fathers, as well as descriptions of dozens of key early councils and writings. - A concise history of the dramatic spread of Christianity after Jesus told his disciples to evangelize all nations. - Special maps showing you where the Fathers lived, including many little-known and long-vanished locations. - A guide to nearly 30 ancient heresies, many of which have returned to haunt the modern world. - The Fathers' teaching on nearly 50 topics, including modern hot-button issues like abortion, homosexuality, and divorce. This groundbreaking work presents the teachings of the early Christians in a way unlike any other book. It flings open the doors of the crucial but little-known age covering the birth of Christianity and the triumphant march of the gospel throughout the ancient world.

Practical Theology: Spiritual Direction from St. Thomas Aquinas by Peter Kreeft

Here are 359 pieces of wisdom from St. Thomas's masterpiece, the Summa Theologiae, which Kreeft says "are literally more valuable than all the kingdoms of this world because they will help you to attain 'the one thing needful,' or 'the greatest good', the ultimate end and purpose and meaning of life. Three of its names are "being a saint," "beatitude" ("supreme happiness") and "union with God." That was the principle for Kreeft in choosing which passages to use: do they help you to attain your ultimate end - sanctity, happiness, union with God? St. Thomas would have agreed with writer Leon Bloy, who often wrote that in the end "there is only one tragedy in life: not to have been a saint".

House of Hospitality by Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day's reflections-written on the fly over five hectic years-reveal not only the beginnings of the Catholic Worker Movement, but the mind of a heroic woman as she responds to the demands of faith. Now back in print after seventy-five years, House of Hospitality is packed with stories of sacrifice and kindness, strikes and protests, hunger and soup lines, the rough reality of tenement life, and the foul odor of poverty. "I do penance through my nose continually," Dorothy wrote. And yet, as she said, "Our lives are made up of little miracles day by day."